

Weekly Prayers, News and Thoughts

Welcome to our condensed Newsletter. We are publishing this in digital format to help keep us up to date with each other.

Lockdown and social distancing measures have now been increased in the area. In line with this, we are suspending both Bible Study and Wednesday Community days until the advisories indicate it is safe to reintroduce these again.

Church Services will continue to be available electronically via YouTube and our website. Audio CD's of the services are available upon request.

If you know of anyone who you feel would benefit from our online offerings please feel free to share our website at www.bishopbaptists.co.uk with others so they too can enjoy our weekly online service (also available on our YouTube Channel), newsletters, blog and other items of prayer and interest.

Pray for those who mourn and have lost loved ones to Corona Virus, for those who have the illness, for those caring and supporting those who are ill, for those exploring the possibilities of vaccines and for the effectiveness of national strategies and personal practices in overcoming the pandemic.

For help and support. please feel free to contact:

- John Claydon johnclaydon@thenba.org.uk
- Paul Revill paulrevill@thenba.org.uk or
- Elaine Webster elainewebster@thenba.org.uk

Prayers

Please continue to pray, either by yourself, or collectively, using one of the many online and social media channels for:

- ***Members & friends of our Fellowship***
- ***People, families & neighbours within your own circle experiencing difficulties***
- ***Those who work for our benefit and welfare in frontline jobs, putting themselves and their families in vulnerable and frequently life-threatening situations***
- ***Supermarket staff and other supply industries***
- ***Carers in Care Homes and Nursing Homes and Sheltered Housing and Hostels***
- ***Carers who look after members of their own families***
- ***Postal Workers and other delivery people who bring us our mail, food, and medicines***
- ***All those in positions of leadership, research, development, industrial organisations, and new productions, at this traumatic time***

This week We are asked by NBA to pray for our Baptist Hospital Chaplains at this time of great challenge and for our NHS as they support staff and patients who also carry anxieties of their own:

- ***Rev Robert Muir - Wansbeck Hospital, Ashington***
- ***Rev Jim Wright - Lead chaplain at North Tees Hospital, Stockton***
- ***Rev Rodney Breckon - James Cook Hospital***
- ***Rev Graeme Harrison - Lead chaplain, Northumbria Healthcare Trust***
- ***Rev Liz Edwards - North Tyneside hospital***
- ***Rev Dave Etherington - North Durham University Hospital + BAGH***

Please pray especially for all those living and working in:

- ***Lindsay Street***
- ***Hutchinson Street***
- ***Durham Street***
- ***Hazel Grove***
- ***Bishop Street***
- ***Wesley Street***
- ***Sandringham Nursing Home***
- ***Church View Nursing Home***

Pray for those who mourn and have lost loved ones to Covid-19, for those who have the illness, for those caring and supporting those who are ill, for those exploring the possibilities of vaccines and for the effectiveness of national strategies and personal practices in overcoming the pandemic. We must not forget those people who have recently lost loved ones too, from other causes and who are going through the grief and stresses which are made even harder to bear by the present circumstances.

NBA Assembly

Topic: Investing in godly leadership: "Hearing from God and looking to the Future."

Speaker: Andy Byers

Date: Saturday 7th November 9.45am to 15pm1.15pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 820 9690 3315

Passcode 508761

Devotional Prayers – Westgate Baptist Church

Pastor: Shelagh Garry

Website: <https://www.westgatebaptist.org.uk>

Give thanks for:

- God's sustaining grace and provision for us.
- The technical and creative abilities amongst them that help them to stay connected in worship, prayer, Bible Study and fellowship.

Please pray for:

- The church in its continuing search for their next Minister.
- Unity of heart, mind and purpose as they learn what it means to be Jesus' church together in these different and strange times.
- Wisdom and creativity as we try to find ways to make Jesus known and to 'do good' in their community.

Ephesians 1: 15-16

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

The Baptist Union Environment Network

A new Baptist network that connects people with a passion for the environment and climate change was launched on 6th September 2020.

The Baptist Union Environment Network - "BUEN", meaning good in Spanish – aims to inspire churches and regional associations to grow in valuing creation and join God in environmental mission and taking action to care for creation and people.

BUEN is building a network of environmental partners across our Regional Association life who can journey alongside churches to able them to declare with God in worship, life, and action that "creation is good" (Gen1 v25).

Two of the partners are our former President Dave Gregory, minister of Croxley Green Baptist Church, and Hannah Gray, who works at the University of East Anglia, managing environmental research projects in developing countries and is a member of Light of Life Baptist Church on the east Norfolk coast.

In a jointly authored feature about BUEN for the forthcoming (autumn) edition of Baptists Together magazine, they write : "It aims to release the prophetic Pentecost voice of children, young people and the Millennial generation who are so concerned over the damage being caused to their world that they will inherit from previous generations.

BUEN will help our wider family share in the pain felt by people and churches with strong links to the developing world by the injustice experienced by those who have contributed least to climate change yet who feel its negative impacts first.

Together with the injustice of global calls to mitigate fossil fuel emissions with little financial support from historical major emitters to transition towards low carbon economies. And it will encourage churches, associations, and national bodies to take steps towards being carbon neutral by 2035."

Find out more in the BUEN area of the website [here](#)

Follow it on Facebook BUEN – [Baptist Union Environmental Network](#)

Follow it on Twitter BUEN – [BUEN Union](#)

(Baptist Times, 26/08/2020)

BABC Tuesday Bible Study Restart Postponed

Because of the latest restrictions on social distancing and shielding needs etc, we have reluctantly decided to delay the intended BABC Tuesday Bible Study Restart.

Hopefully we will be able to proceed in the not too-distant future and will let you know when the situation improves again.

With apologies, thank you.

BABC Harvest Festival

Since we are unable to hold a traditional Harvest Festival this year due to government Covid-19 restrictions, we have prepared a [BABC Virtual Harvest Festival](#) which will be shown on our YouTube channel on Sunday October 11th 2020.

We hope that you can join us via the technology.

God Bless

To Be At Your Best You Need To Rest

Exodus 34:21 (NIV) "Six days you shall labour, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during the ploughing season and harvest you must rest.

We have this tendency to say, "I don't have time to rest. I'm going to work, work, and work until all my work is done, and then I'm going to rest".

The only problem is that eventually we discover that there is no end to the work! There is always more work to do. That is why if you say: "I'll only rest when there's no more work to be done", then you will never rest at all.

God sets a different example for us. After finishing six days of work, God rested before working again (Genesis 2:23).

Similarly, each day and each week, we too need set aside regular time for rest into our schedule.

Exodus 34 v 21 says "even during the ploughing season and harvest you must rest".

This is because God knows our tendency to refuse to rest.

For those who love to work, it takes discipline, self-control and trust in God to rest even while there are still mountains of more work to do.

But if you want to help your body to be effective then that means developing good sleeping and eating habits, not sleeping too late or eating too late, and getting regular exercise.

For your mind that means giving yourself a chance to rest from the matters that usually keep you busy.

It means doing other things that rejuvenate you and spending time with people who refresh you (i.e. recreation [or re-creation] time.)

Can you set aside some time in the day, one evening, or even one hour to have no appointments or commitments? Of course you can - but the question is - will you?

Will you respect your need for rest or will you continue to push yourself to the max?

Most importantly, for your soul that means spending time with God and God's people, protecting your set aside time with God, and your time to worship in church.

To be at your best you need to rest.

May you learn to find rest even during your busiest seasons so that you can give your best to God at all times in all that you do.

Jesus, I am weary. I spend each day busy but feel I don't accomplish enough.

Help me to set healthy boundaries and prioritise by Your Holy Spirit.

I have my to-do list, but what do You have for me to do?

Help me not to miss Your divine appointments.

Set my focus on things above and keep my eyes on You.

Reveal to me what I should hold on to, and what I need to let go.

Empower and equip me for the work You have for me.

Give me the lasting strength of abiding in You.

Renew my mind, body, and spirit, Lord, and make me whole.

Amen.

Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.

Isaiah 40:31

Auckland | Project - Closed Doors, Open Hearts continues

Last week marked a milestone for the second phase of our food initiative: we've now distributed more than 1,000kg of fresh produce from the Walled Garden to local community organisations.

Our aim is to work together to provide an ongoing service to those most in need.

For the last weeks, fruits and vegetables have been delivered to Woodhouse Close Community Centre; Shildon Alive; Little Chefs, Big Chefs CIC; Heritage Cafe; Angel Trust and Bishop Auckland Baptist Church.

These organisations have used the produce in a variety of ways, from stocking food banks to making nutritious meals for the community.

During the summer holidays, we provided more than 400 meals for children taking part in summer schools in Bishop Auckland, Shildon and Witton-le-Wear.

It isn't only fruit and vegetables from the gardens that we've been sharing; we've also worked with the Angel Trust to surprise a few special members of the community with bouquets made up of flowers from the Walled Garden.

marketing@aucklandproject.org

Online Prayer

- Bishop Auckland Baptist Church Service
<https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/babc-sunday-service/>
- Northern Baptist Association Service
<https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/nba-sunday-service/>
- Influence Church Service (Services streamed Sundays at 11.00am and 5.00pm)
<http://www.influencechurch.co.uk>

FareShare Food Scheme

John and Vanessa at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church continue their sterling efforts in collecting the vast amount of FareShare food kindly donated by local suppliers. They are currently taking the food to Woodhouse Close Food Bank to ensure the most efficient route of distribution. The food bank is open every weekday from 10.00am until 12.00pm.

We are now investigating the possibility of additional donations from other branches of the scheme to assist in keeping the food banks resourced so they can continue to help those need.

Church Garden

Due to the restrictions currently being imposed, work on the garden can only be undertaken when conditions indicate it is safe to do so.

Group working on the garden is being reviewed on an ongoing basis to determine if it complies with the intended social distancing and potential lockdown guidance being introduced.

This will be reviewed on a weekly basis in line with Government guidance.

The latest photographs can be seen on our [gardening blog](#) on the website.

Christians Against Poverty Courses

 Meaningful Ageing
Course,
Bishop Auckland



8 weeks in Oct/Nov for 2 hours per week

Tel: Rev John Purdy on 01388-603142

Email: john.purdy@methodist.org.uk

Website: www.bishopmethodist.org.uk

Lord, grow in us a harvest for the world.

Come and sow a seed of hope within our souls Lord, that we might yield goodness, patience and kindness in abundance.

Sow a seed of peace in our lives Lord, that we might bear the fruits of forgiveness, compassion and righteousness.

Come sow a seed of love in our hearts Lord, that others would reap the blessings of family, friendship and community.

May each seed of hope, peace and love grow within us into a harvest that can be feasted on by all.

May Your will be done.

Amen.

(Prayer by Julie Palmer © 2018 www.prayerscapes.com)

Helpful Links

BABC Sunday Service	https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/babc-sunday-service/
BABC Newsletter	https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/newsletter/
BABC Garden Blog	https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/church-garden-blog/
NBA Sunday Service	https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/nba-sunday-service/
BABC Main Website	www.bishopbaptists.co.uk

Please feel free to explore the website and subscribe to [our YouTube channel](#) and those of our contributors to encourage them to continue to provide the valuable content from which we all benefit.